



Agency ID: 170000143501

Media File Type: LAND

Bureau ID: 1630755017

Site Name: Waste Management - Cottonwood Hill Rd

Site Address1: 1 Mile W Of Rte 13 & Hillstown Rd

Site Address2: 10400 Hillstown Rd

Site City: Marissa

State: IL

Zip: 62257-

**This record has been determined to
be partially or wholly exempt from
public disclosure**

Exemption Type:

Redaction

Exempt Doc #: 49

Document Date: 1 /3 /2016

Staff: JKS

Document Description: CITIZEN COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Category ID: 01

Category Description: FIELD OPERATIONS/INSPECTIONS

Exempt Type: Redaction

Permit ID:

Date of Determination: 2 /24/2016

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BUREAU OF LAND/FIELD OPERATIONS SECTION
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION FORM

☐ RCRA Citizen Complaint Investigation

Complaint #: C-2016-039

Date Received: 1/3/16

By: IEMA-IAGO

BOL/FOS - Collinsville Region

☐ By E-mail; ☒ By Phone; ☐ In Person; ☐ By Mail

BOL #: 1630755017

COUNTY: St. Clair

Location/Facility Name: Marissa

/ Cottonwood Hills Landfill

Complainant [REDACTED]

Respondent Waste Management

IEPA-DIVISION OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
RELEASABLE

Address [REDACTED]

Address 10400 Hillstown Road

FEB 24 2016

[REDACTED]

Marissa, Illinois 62257

REVIEWER: JKS

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Telephone #: (618) 295 - 2809

Directions to Source: Mapquest

Complaint Details: Complainant alleging smells from Cottonwood Hills Landfill is causing health effects and decreasing property values in Marissa. Also alleges the gas flare at the landfill has been blown out for approximately 10 days. The complaints also alleges the Village of Marissa and IEPA have failed to act on the problem.

INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

By: Kendall Couch

Date: 1/6/16

Interviewed: Bill Raynor, Marissa Police, Bill Yates

Time: 9:45am

Investigation Results (Select one of the following):

☐ Refer to inspection report dated:

☒ Refer to following for details: On January 6, 2015, I went to Marissa, Illinois to conduct a complaint investigation at the Waste Management's Cottonwood Hills Landfill. The Illinois Office of the Attorney General, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency received phone calls from a single complainant alleging odors emanating from the Cottonwood Hills Landfill causing health issues, deaths and devaluation of property.

These phone call complaints were received during a three day period from January 4, 2016 to January 6, 2016. A summary of the allegations are outlined below.

-Flame mechanism at the landfill having technical difficulties as of December 24, 2015 and ceased operations on December 31, 2015.

-Fumes released both before and after the flame difficulties caused health complications in residents

-One resident died in the mobile home park on December 31, 2015 and two others past away on January 2, 2016 as a result of the fumes.

-Horrible smell burns your eyes and throat and instantly gives you headaches and nausea.

-Flame on flare has been blown out since Christmas Eve.

-People of Marissa constantly getting sick from the smell.

-Many people have moved from the area.

-Can not sale home because of the guilt they would feel after the sale.

-Mayor of Marissa owns trucking company that hauls trash to the landfill so he ignores the problem.

-Illinois EPA has reported no smell

-One thousand people have died and the Illinois EPA personnel are taking bribes to ignore the situation.

An independent engineering firm, Weaver Boos Consultants, conducts quarterly air monitoring events at the Cottonwood Hills and around the Village of Marissa. These monitoring events have not generated any evidence of harmful gas leaving the landfill property.

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BOL #: 1630755017

COUNTY: St. Clair

Location/Facility Name: Marissa

/ Cottonwood Hills Landfill

The Cottonwood Hills Landfill has a candle stick flare equipped with auto dialer system to alert landfill personnel of any malfunctions or performance issues. The flare is also equipped with auto-shutoff controls to prevent the venting of landfill gas during power outages or equipment breakdowns.

The flares operations and gas well field strictly follow the USEPA New Source Performance Standards (NEPS) for landfill gas collection systems. The Cottonwood Hills Title V Clean Air Act Permit (CAAPP) outlines these standards. Both the USEPA and Illinois EPA audit these requirements on a routine basis.

On January 5, 2016, at the request of Chris Cahnovsky-IEPA/BOL, Denny Dennison of Waste Management submitted landfill gas flare data via email. This data cover the time from December 24, 2015 through December 31, 2015. This data indicated the flare was operational during this timeframe. This data is included with this report.

During this odor survey, I had the Foxboro Total Vapor Analyzer (TVA) and MSA Solaris Four Gas monitor running to technically evaluate any areas of unhealthy air within the Village of Marissa or the area around and within the Cottonwood Hills Landfill facility. The weather was overcast, wet, 35° Fahrenheit with a SSE wind at 10mph.

When I arrived in Marissa at 9:45am, I went to the Marissa High School to get an estimate of wind direction and speed. The wind was out of the southwest at approximately 10 to 20mph.

I then went to the Marissa WWTP and met with Bill Yates. Mr. Yates explained that the recent rains had increased the landfill leachate flow to approximately 100,000 to 110,000 gallons per day. Mr. Yates went on to say the plant was running normally with considerations of the recent weather. During my drive around the plant, I encountered a sight odor. This odor dissipated and disappeared as I drove out of the plant gate.

I then went to the Village Hall and spoke with the Receptionist. I explained the complaint and she stated that two residents had past away over the New Years Holiday weekend. It appears neither one of the deaths were directly caused by any exposure to landfill fumes. Both of the deaths appeared to be from natural causes. Before leaving, I left my business card for future communication with the Mayor of Marissa.

I then spoke with a police officer for the Village of Marissa. The officer stated that no unusual deaths or odors were encountered over the holidays. The officer went on to say, he smelled some odors from time to time but was not for sure if it was the landfill or the WWTP.

I then went to the Cottonwood Hills Landfill scale house and met with Leslie Foertsch and Amber Lazenby, Landfill Scalehouse Managers. Ms. Lazenby printed a spreadsheet of the special waste/declassified special waste received at this facility over the preceeding two weeks. Three waste streams were excepted over this time. The three companys were Timken Corporation, Ketller Castings and Hubbell/Wiegman. The acceptance of these waste streams did not produce any concerns in respect to odor generation.

During our converstation, Ms. Lazenby and Ms. Foertsch had nothing abnormal to report in respect to the operations of the landfill. At this time, Bill Raynor, Landfill General Manager. I explained the complaint and Mr. Raynor stated that landfill operations had been normal. The gas flare did malfunction due to an electrical problem on January 4, 2016. An electrical crew were on-site running new wire to get the flare back on-line. It appears the flare was able to restart during this time, but malfunctioned once more apparently from a damaged wiring.

No solidification activities, cell excavations or subsurface oxidation events have occurred at this site that would potentially produce excessive odors and fumes. Mr. Raynor went on to say, the landfill received approximately 8 inches of rain over the Christmas Holiday. This landfill is receiving approximately 1600 tons of waste per day. The leachate recovery stations are working well and structural integrity of the landfill was not affected by the recent weather except for a couple of small erosion ditches.

After this discussion, Mr. Raynor and I drove around the landfill clockwise towards the gas flare. Several electrical workers were running wire to repair the gas flare. As we drove by the flare, directly downwind of the active area of the landfill, the Flame Ionization Detector (FID) on the TVA went from a baseline reading of -0.3ppm to approximately 8ppm. Landfill smell was present in this area. This reading quickly receded back down to approximately 2ppm as we drove to the northeastern corner of the landfill.

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We turned around and again drove past the area where the elevated readings were encountered near the gas flare. The TVA again displayed an elevated reading around 8 ppm and averaged around 6ppm while in the area directly down wind of the active area. The area where the elevated readings were observed was approximately 100 yards from the active area. We then drove around the western side of the landfill. At this time the TVA returned to baseline. Two small erosion ditches were observed on the western sideslope. Mr. Raynor was planning to repair these areas as soon as time and weather permitted.

I then returned to the Landfill Scalehouse and reviewed the daily operating logs for the month of December 2015. Mr. Raynor is using multiple tarps and soil to cover the active area during non-operational hours. The logs indicated the gas flare was operational during the entire month of December. The leachate sumps were operating within compliance levels. After a short discussion of daily operations of the landfill, I left the Cottonwood Hills Landfill facility.

I then up and down Hillstown Road north of the landfill. An elevated reading of 4.0ppm was observed while I was directly down wind of the landfill. A very slight smell of landfill odors was encountered when the elevated reading was observed. This area is approximately 1800 feet from the active area of the landfill. The TVA quickly returned to baseline exited the area downwind of the landfill.

I then drove up and down Route 13. This road is further to the north of the landfill. I observed a reading of 0.6ppm on the TVA as I drove approximately 4/5 of a mile from the active area of the landfill. During this time, I was unable to smell any landfill odors. I then continued north to return to the IEPA Collinsville Regional office.

During the air survey, the Photo Ionization Detector on the TVA did not detect any elevated readings of organics. The MSA Solaris did not detect any combustible gas, hydrogen sulfide or carbon monoxide.

Upon returning to the IEPA Collinsville Regional office, I received a call from the Mayor of Marissa, Jerry Cross. I explained the recent complaints received by the various Agencies. Mayor Cross stated that he was not the owner of any trucking or hauling company and was unaware of any gas or fumes causing health issues with the residence of Marissa.

The findings of this air survey, as well as the information obtained during the various interviews with landfill and Marissa public service personnel, could not substantiate the complainant's allegations of landfill gas affecting the health and property values of the residence of Marissa, Illinois.

Complainant notified of findings? ☐**Referred to:** _____**File Opened?** ☐